

Helping your child to read and write.



Reading to children:

- provides a model of fluent reading.
- involves children in reading for enjoyment.
- expands their vocabulary
- promotes oral language development.
- provides a model for writing

Sharing reading and writing:

- provides support for reading and writing
- provides opportunities to participate as a reader and a writer.

What do I do when my child comes to an unfamiliar word?

You can help them by **pausing** and waiting for them to attempt the word and then **prompting** by telling them to:

- Get their mouth ready for the initial letter sound in a word
- Look at the word ending
- Look for little words that they know inside the word e.g. ball more
- Look for familiar chunks of letter sounds, e.g. 'ing', 'ight', 'ick', etc
- Read on for a few more words and then come back to the word.
- Re-read and continue on reading if it makes sense
- **Praise** them

The text needs to make sense to them; they need to be searching for meaning as they are reading.



Writing:

When your child is writing encourage them to talk about the message in their writing. They may need to talk about an idea or draw a picture first.

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- you can help them to:
- write a letter
- make a sign for their bedroom door
- write notes to family members
- make a special card e.g birthday
- write about a family event
- make a shopping list
- correctly spell words that they know and use often
- make a list of words that they often use in their writing

Encourage them to read their writing to you.

- When they don't know how to spell a word ask them to:
- Wait and think about it and talk about it first
- Stretch the word out and listen to the sounds they can hear
- Write down the sounds they can hear and then you can write a correct spelling above their attempt
- **Praise** them for the attempt they have made and draw their attention to chunks of letter sounds e.g 'ight', word endings e.g. 'ing', 'ed', and blends of letters e.g. 'sh', 'ch'
- Make a list of correctly spelt words that they are likely to use often in their writing.

They need to reread their writing to make sure it makes sense. **Praise them for re-reading their work and making their own improvements.**

Ask them if you can display their work.

When they see you reading and writing e.g. lists, instructions, recipes, timetables, etc involve them in the task and they will see a purpose for reading and writing. They may want to read the TV page in the newspaper, read labels on packets, advertisements, send an email or leave 'reminder' messages for members of the family or add things to a shopping list.

Rereading familiar texts is a valuable way to consolidate skills and gain fluency in reading.

Reading and writing skills are linked and writing helps to develop reading skills.

